

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00260 271605Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0260

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: TIRED BLOOD IN QUEBEC

1. ARTICLE IN TODAY'S (JULY 26) LE DEVOIR BY POLITICAL ANALYST
PIERRE O'NEILL PROVIDES RUNDOWN ON CHANGES GOING ON IN QUEBEC
WING OF FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY. ACCORDING TO O'NEILL, MARC
LALONDE IS UNDERTAKING A THOROUGH HOUSECLEANING IN PREPARATION
FOR FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTION, WITH AN EYE TOWARD ELIMINA-
TING PARTY DEADWOOD AND INTRODUCING NEW FACES. CASUALTIES AMONG
INCUMBENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE HEAVY, SINCE AS MANY AS 29 OF
PARTY'S CURRENT CROP OF 60 HOUSE OF COMMONS MEMBERS FROM QUEBEC
MAY NOT BE CANDIDATES THIS TIME AROUND, EITHER STEPPING OR
O'NEILL'S LIST OF ACTUAL OR PROBABLE CHANGES IS AS FOLLOWS:

ARGENTEUIL RIDING: WITH FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL FRANCIS FOX
MOVING TO THE NEW RIDING OF BLAINVILLE-DEUX MONTAGNES, THE LIBERAL
CANDIDATE IN ARGENTEUIL WILL BE ANDRE GOURD.

BONAVENTURE-ILES DE LA MADELEINE: MONTREAL LAWYER AND FORMER
TRUDEAU STAFFER REMI BUJOLD REPLACES ALBERT BECHARD.

CHICOUTIMI: MARCEL DIONNE REPLACES PAUL LANGLOIS.

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DOLLARD: FORMER MINISTER JEAN-PIERRE GOYER'S SEAT WILL BE FILLED
EITHER BY YOLANDE TAYLOR OR BY REAL TARDIF, WITH FIERCE INFIGHTING
GOING ON NOW BETWEEN THE TWO.

HOCHELAGA: INCUMBENT JACQUES LAVOIE, ELECTED AS A PC BUT NOW
A LIBERAL, IS CONSIDERED VULNERABLE BUT REFUSES TO STEP ASIDE

IN FAVOR OF LALONDE'S CANDIDATE, FORMER MNA JEAN-CLAUDE MALEPART.

LAPRAIRIE: PIERRE DENIGER, FORMERLY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO
TRANSPORTATION MINISTER OTTO LANG, WILL BE THE CANDIDATE.

MANICOUAGAN: ANDRE MALTAIS REPLACES GUSTAVE BLOUIN.

MERCIER: PROSPER BOULANGER WILL BE REPLACED BY CELINE PAYETTE,
FORMER HEAD OF THE PARTY'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

QUEBEC-EAST: INCUMBENT GERARD DUQUET HAS BEEN RENOMINATED, BUT
IS REPORTEDLY BEING URGED TO STEP ASIDE IN FAVOR OF RAYMOND
GARNEAU, WHO WAS DEFEATED BY CLAUDE RYAN FOR THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL
PARTY LEADERSHIP LAST SPRING.

RICHELIEU: JEAN-LOUIS LEDUC REPLACES FLORIAN COTE.

SAINT-HENRI-WESTMOUNT: LAWYER DONALD JOHNSON REPLACES GERARD
LOISELLE.

SAINT-HYACINTHE: IN CLAUDE WAGNER'S OLD RIDING, THE LIBERAL
CANDIDATE WILL BE FORMER MNA MARCEL OSTIGUY.

SAINT-MICHEL: THERESE KILLENS WILL RUN FOR MONIQUE BEGIN'S SEAT,
WHILE BEGIN MOVES TO THE NEW RIDING OF ST LEONARD-ANJOU.

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SHEFFORD: IN THIS SACRED RIDING JEAN LAPIERRE, FORMERLY EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT TO URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER ANDRE OUELLET, WILL BE THE
LIBERAL CANDIDATE.

IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE, O'NEILL CLAIMS AN ADDITION
15 RIDINGS WHERE THE CANDIDACIES OF INCUMBENTS IS IN DOUBT,
NOTABLY IN BERTHIER-MASKINONGE (ANTONIO YANAKIS), GASPE (ALEXANDRE
CYR), BOURASSA (JACQUES TRUDEL), LAURIER (FERNAND LEBLANC),
LEVIS (RAYNALD GUAY), LASALLE (JOHN CAMPBELL), AND BEAUHARNOIS
(GERARD LANIEL).

3. COMMENT: EVEN IN THEIR QUEBEC BASTION, THE FEDERAL LIBERALS
ARE SUFFERING FROM TIRED BLOOD AND COULD USE A TRANSFUSION,
DESPITE THE LACK OF ANY REAL THREAT FROM EITHER THE PROGRESSIVE
CONSERVATIVES OR THE SACREDS. NONE OF THE NEW NAMES, HOWEVER,
STRIKE US IMMEDIATELY AS BEING MINISTERIAL TIMBER.
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